

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

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California State Senate

SENATOR
BYRON D. SHER
ELEVENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
CHAIR:
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2
MEMBER:
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS
EDUCATION
ENERGY, UTILITIES
& COMMUNICATIONS
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NATURAL RESOURCES
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BAY AREA TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
FORESTRY
MOBILE & MANUFACTURED
HOMES

November 15, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1333 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: Support Palo Alto's Grant Application for the Arastradero Gateway Parcel Acquisition

Dear Chair Morabito:

I am writing to urge your support of a grant application to assist the City of Palo Alto in acquiring an important addition to the City of Palo Alto's Arastradero Preserve. The city of Palo Alto is applying to the Conservancy for a \$1.8 Million grant to help purchase this last 13 acres of contiguous private land to complete the preserve.

Surrounded on all sides by the Arastradero Preserve, this Property is a natural addition to the preserve which boasts oak woodlands and grasslands that provide much needed habitat for a host of native wildlife, including deer, bobcats, coyotes, and many varieties of birds. Native bird and plant restoration projects are already underway on preserve land adjacent to the property, adding this key island of private land to the preserve would only help buoy these efforts and help advance plans to provide additional access to the trails within the Arastradero Preserve

Unfortunately the same qualities that make this property such an ideal addition to the Arastradero Preserve also make it vulnerable to large scale residential development. In 2002 this parcel was auctioned off to the highest bidder and subject to development, but with the help of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the City of Palo Alto was able to forestall this development for three years. But POST must be repaid by October 2005 or the original high bidder will gain control of this property.

With your help the city has the opportunity to leverage other public and private funds to permanently protect the Arastradero Gateway parcel by purchasing it from POST. This grant will help make permanent protection of this land a reality, thus ensuring its environmental values are preserved, and the recreational values of the preserve are enhanced.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

BYRON D. SHER
Senator, 11th District

cc. Nadine Hitchcock
Sam Schuchat, executive officer

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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County of Santa Clara

Environmental Resources Agency
Parks and Recreation Department

298 Garden Hill Drive
Los Gatos, California 95032-7669
(408) 355-2200 FAX 355-2290
Reservations (408) 355-2201
www.parkhere.org



April 23, 2004

Nadine Hitchcock, Program Manager
San Francisco Bay Program
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Grant Program (Bay Program) Application
Arastradero Preserve Gateway Acquisition

Dear Nadine,

Recognizing the value of the Arastradero Gateway property for expanding recreational opportunities and preserving riparian habitat in the heart of the Arastradero Preserve, the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the City of Palo Alto to help acquire this key parcel. I am writing to urge you to recommend approval of the City's request for funding as we believe this project is certainly worthy of Bay Program financial support.

We share the City's and Conservancy's goal of protecting and enhancing natural habitats of significance while improving public access and enjoyment through the completion of regional trails and other recreational amenities. Once acquired, the property will serve as an important trailhead and staging area for three county-wide trails, including the Anza Trail and another trail which will eventually connect the Bay Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail. The City has developed an excellent plan for the property that appropriately balances expansion of much needed recreational opportunities for hiking, picnicking and nature exploration with protection of natural resources. The City is committed to resource protection as evidenced by its long-term stewardship contract with Acterra for creek and habitat restoration in the preserve.

I hope the Conservancy will give strong consideration to supporting the City's request. Please let me know if I can answer any questions about the County's support of this application and I can be reached at (408) 355-2244. I look forward to joining you and Palo Alto City Council member Dena Mossar on a tour of the property once a convenient date has been set.

Sincerely,

Lisa Killough, Director
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department

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COASTAL-CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

c: Greg Betts, Superintendent of Parks, City of Palo Alto



Board of Supervisors: Donald F. Gage, Blanca Alvarado, Pete McHugh, James T. Beall, Jr., Liz Kniss
County Executive: Peter Kutas, Jr.

6-012